



June 27, 2011

Ruth Blevins, ADN
Executive Director
West Virginia Nurses Association
1007 Bigley Avenue, Suite 308
Charleston, WV 25302

Marlene Dortch
Secretary Federal
Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90, A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51, High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The West Virginia Nurses Association (WVNA) is committed to advocating for the ability of all nurses to deliver safe and efficient health care to West Virginia's citizens. WVNA's mission is to promote, protect and advance the nursing profession as well as health care by giving a voice to nurses in the West Virginia's political process. We have been focused on important issues that ultimately will determine the quality of a patient's stay in a hospital. Those issues include hospital safe staffing, nursing faculty retention and recruitment, school nurse ratios, and aligning the current prescriptive authority law to current national standards of primary care practices. Although these are very lofty goals, WVNA is committed to advocating for the ability of all nurses to deliver safe and efficient health care to West Virginia's citizens.

We are able to cost effectively communicate with our members, some spread out across rural areas with limited technology, using a free conferencing phone service, FreeConferenceCall.com. This service is not free for our members to use but it is cheaper than the larger carriers who charge an organizer fee. We are always cognizant of where our operating costs are spent. The more money we can save ultimately means we can focus those saved resources on improving medical care for patients.

Recently, I learned the Federal Communications Commission is contemplating new rules that will do away with these services. This action, if taken, will have a negative effect on the West Virginia Nurses Association. As the Commission moves forward, I respectfully ask you to consider these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Blevins".

Ruth Blevins, ADN
Executive Director
West Virginia Nurses Association

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn